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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/696,791	10/30/2003	Joseph Schlegelmann	46107-0087	8130
57444	7590	04/28/2006	EXAMINER	
AUTOMOTIVE COMPONENTS HOLDINGS, LLC c/o MACMILLAN SOBANSKI & TODD One Maritime Plaza, Fourth Floor 720 Water Street Toledo, OH 43604-1853			BINDA, GREGORY JOHN	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		3679		
DATE MAILED: 04/28/2006				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/696,791	SCHLEGELMANN ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Greg Binda	3679

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 March 2006.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-3 and 5-27 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 8-26 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-3,5-7 and 27 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 31 March 2006 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

✓1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 ✓2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 ✓6) Other: annotated drawing sheet.

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1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Election/Restrictions

2. Claims 8-26 have been withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on March 17, 2005.

Drawings

3. The replacement drawings filed March 31, 2006 are objected because:
 - a. In Fig. 3A, the lead lines for reference numerals 44 & 46 each indicate the same feature, but each numeral is supposed to identify a feature different from that of the other.
 - b. In Fig. 3A, the presumed lead line for reference numeral 39 originates at numeral 44, instead of numeral 39.
 - c. The first, second, and third diameters described in paragraph 028 and recited in claim 1 are not indicated in the drawings.

Specification

4. The disclosure is objected to because page 5, line 17, as amended, includes the nonsensical statement, “a third diameter 37 that is smaller than the second diameter [37]”. See line 12 that has been amended to include the term, “a second diameter 37”.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. Claims 1-3, 5-7 & 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

- a. Claim 1, line 8 recites the limitation, "removal of the stakes [44] producing a space [39]". However, Fig. 3A (as replaced March 31, 2006) shows the space 39 coexisting with the stakes 44. As such, it is not clear how the space 39 is produced by the removal of the stakes 44.
- b. Claim 6 recites the limitation "the annular seat" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. Claims 1 & 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Girquis, US 3,881,324 (see particularly the attached annotated Fig. 2). Girquis shows a universal joint comprising: a yoke leg 6 with an aperture; a bearing cup 4; a retention member; and a spacer. Fig. 2 shows the aperture of the yoke leg comprises: an annular groove in which resides the retention member; a first diameter (the diameter of the portion of the annular groove occupied by the retention member); a second diameter (the diameter of the portion of the annular groove not occupied by the retention member) inboard of the first diameter; an inboard radial wall having a third diameter that is smaller than the second diameter; an annular seat (the inboard lateral surface of the annular groove); and a space below the annular seat in which resides the spacer.

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7. Claims 1 & 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 60-95221.

Figs. 1 & 7 show a universal joint comprising all the limitations of the claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 2, 3 & 27 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments.

9. Applicant's arguments with respect to the rejected claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Conclusion

10. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

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however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

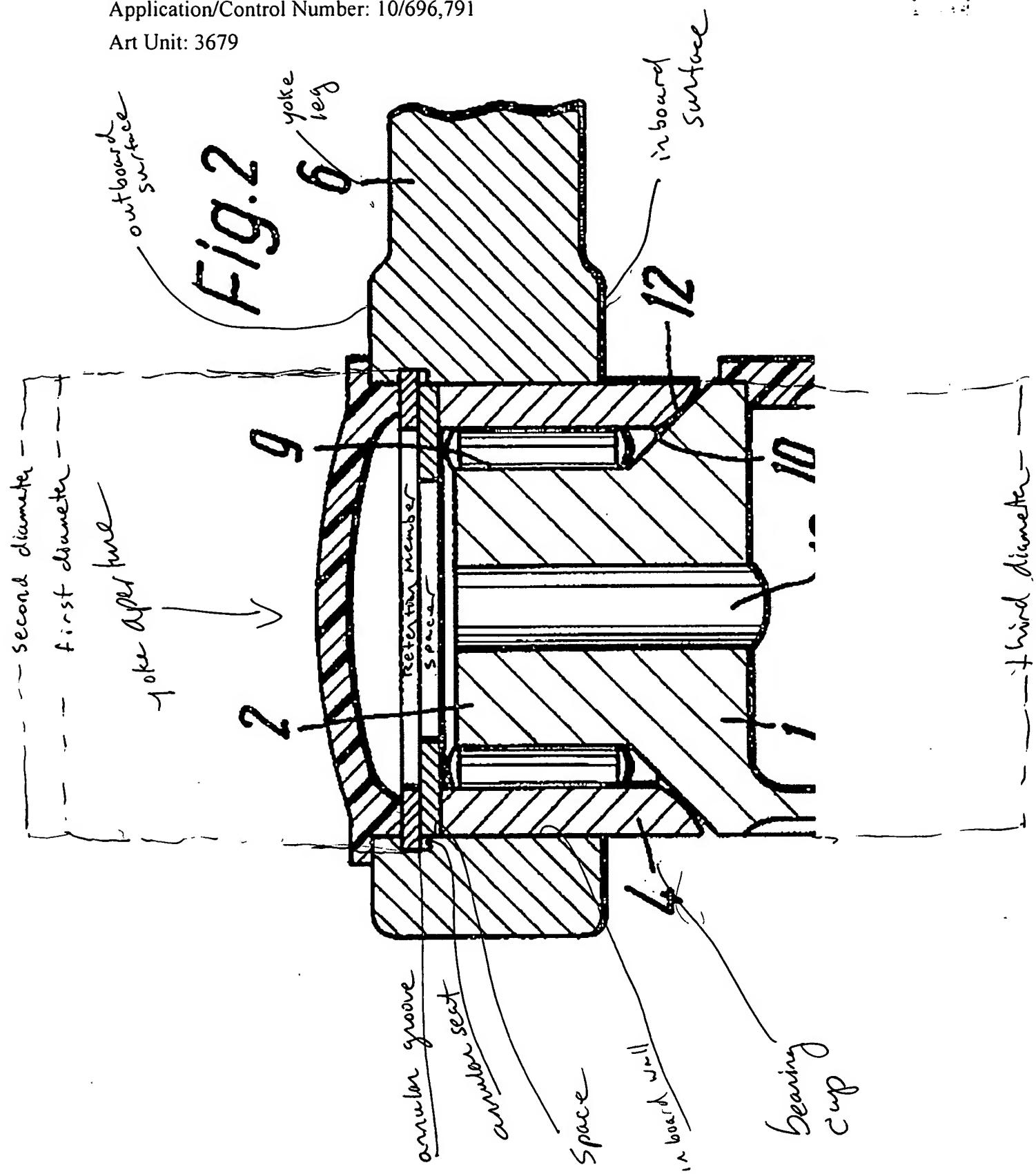
11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Greg Binda whose telephone number is (571) 272-7077. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30 am to 7:00 pm with alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (571) 272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Greg Binda
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3679



Annotated Drawing Sheet

Part of paper
20060427